## Collisions by Roadway Classification

Table 9 compares the number of fatal, injury, and total collisions by urban and rural classification. Urban roadways are defined as those within the city limits of cities with 5,000 people or more. Urban roadways tend to carry higher volumes of traffic at lower speeds, while rural roads carry lower traffic volumes at higher speeds.

**Table 9**
**Comparison of Collisions by Roadway Classification: 2000-2004**

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | Change 2003-2004 | Avg. Change 2000-2003 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fatal Collisions | 225 | 230 | 261 | 261 | 240 | -8.0% | 5.2% |
| Urban | 39 | 40 | 47 | 43 | 47 | 9.3% | 3.9% |
| Rural | 202 | 185 | 183 | 218 | 193 | -11.5% | 3.2% |
| Injury Collisions: | 9,231 | 9,688 | 9,661 | 9,661 | 9,843 | 1.9% | 1.6% |
| Urban | 5,356 | 5,329 | 5,577 | 5,515 | 5,738 | 4.0% | 1.0% |
| Rural | 4,036 | 3,902 | 4,111 | 4,146 | 4,105 | -1.0% | 1.0% |
| Total Collisions: | 26,090 | 26,477 | 26,700 | 26,700 | 28,332 | 6.1% | 0.8% |
| Urban | 15,463 | 15,752 | 15,676 | 15,841 | 17,101 | 8.0% | 0.8% |
| Rural | 10,778 | 10,338 | 10,801 | 10,859 | 11,231 | 3.4% | 0.3% |

In 2004, 80% of fatal collisions occurred on rural roads, whereas 40% of all collisions occurred on rural roads. In Idaho in 2004, 90% of the total road mileage was classified as rural roadway. Rural roads tend to have higher speed limits. Crashes at higher impact speeds have a greater probability of resulting in a fatality.[3]

The high percentage of rural roadways in Idaho may account for the fact that Idaho's fatality rate is consistently higher than the U.S. fatality rate.

Table 10 shows the number of collisions and collision rates on local and state system roadways (both interstate and non-interstate) for 2000-2004, and the number of collisions and collision rates statewide. Collision rates are lower than the statewide fatality and injury rates shown in Table 2 because multiple fatalities or injuries may result from a single collision.

**Table 10**
**Collision Rates for Local and State System Roadways: 2000-2004**

| Roadway Information | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | Change 2003-2004 | Avg. Change 2000-2003 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Local: | | | | | | | |
| VMT (100 millions) | 61.7 | 65.9 | 63.7 | 64.0 | 67.3 | 5.1% | 1.3% |
| Fatal Collisions | 109 | 84 | 88 | 99 | 75 | -24.2% | -1.9% |
| Injury Collisions | 5,357 | 5,216 | 5,424 | 5,538 | 5,465 | -1.3% | 1.2% |
| Total Collisions | 15,740 | 15,343 | 15,461 | 15,635 | 16,508 | 5.6% | -0.2% |
| Fatal Collision Rate | 1.8 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.1 | -28.0% | -2.5% |
| Injury Collision Rate | 86.8 | 79.2 | 85.1 | 86.5 | 81.2 | -6.2% | 0.1% |
| Total Collision Rate | 255.1 | 232.9 | 242.6 | 244.2 | 245.2 | 0.4% | -1.3% |
| State System (Non-Interstate): | | | | | | | |
| VMT (100 millions) | 44.3 | 45.1 | 46.2 | 47.7 | 47.4 | -0.5% | 2.5% |
| Fatal Collisions | 85 | 98 | 108 | 112 | 112 | 0.0% | 9.7% |
| Injury Collisions | 2,642 | 3,014 | 3,329 | 3,297 | 3,333 | 1.1% | 7.9% |
| Total Collisions | 6,775 | 8,067 | 8,477 | 8,751 | 8,824 | 0.8% | 9.1% |
| Fatal Collision Rate | 1.9 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 0.5% | 7.1% |
| Injury Collision Rate | 59.7 | 66.9 | 72.1 | 69.2 | 70.3 | 1.6% | 5.3% |
| Total Collision Rate | 153.1 | 178.9 | 183.6 | 183.6 | 186.0 | 1.3% | 6.5% |
| Interstate: | | | | | | | |
| VMT (100 millions) | 31.3 | 32.0 | 33.1 | 32.3 | 33.5 | 3.6% | 1.1% |
| Fatal Collisions | 47 | 43 | 34 | 50 | 53 | 6.0% | 5.9% |
| Injury Collisions | 1,393 | 1,001 | 935 | 826 | 1,045 | 26.5% | -15.5% |
| Total Collisions | 3,726 | 2,680 | 2,539 | 2,314 | 3,000 | 29.6% | -14.1% |
| Fatal Collision Rate | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 2.3% | 5.6% |
| Injury Collision Rate | 44.5 | 31.3 | 28.2 | 25.6 | 31.2 | 22.1% | -16.3% |
| Total Collision Rate | 118.9 | 83.7 | 76.6 | 71.6 | 89.6 | 25.1% | -14.9% |
| Statewide Totals: | | | | | | | |
| VMT (100 millions) | 137.3 | 143.0 | 143.0 | 144.0 | 148.2 | 2.9% | 1.6% |
| Fatal Collisions | 241 | 225 | 230 | 261 | 240 | -8.0% | 3.0% |
| Injury Collisions | 9,392 | 9,231 | 9,688 | 9,661 | 9,843 | 1.9% | 1.0% |
| Total Collisions | 26,241 | 26,090 | 26,477 | 26,700 | 28,332 | 6.1% | 0.6% |
| Fatal Collision Rate | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.6 | -10.7% | 1.5% |
| Injury Collision Rate | 68.4 | 64.6 | 67.7 | 67.1 | 66.4 | -1.0% | -0.6% |
| Total Collision Rate | 191.1 | 182.5 | 185.1 | 185.4 | 191.1 | 3.1% | -1.0% |